

App. No. 09/982,668
Amdt. Dated March 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2004
Atty. Dkt. No. 8591-103 (formerly docket No. 025505-2005)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said requesting comprises interaction between the requesting member and a graphical user interface.

Claim 5. (Original): A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said graphical user interface comprises a touch screen system.

Claim 6. (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising storing said location information of each user for a fixed period.

Claim 7. (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising obtaining demographic information for each member of said group.

Claim 8. (Original): A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said demographic information includes age of each member.

Claim 9. (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising associating each member with an icon for representation on a monitor.

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Claim 10. (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

returning a tag provided to a member; and

disassociating said member from said group.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said disassociating includes deleting said member from a member list associated with said group.

Claim 12. (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

returning a tag provided to a member;

disassociating said member from said unique serial number of said tag;

providing said member with a new tag having a new serial number; and

associating said member with said new serial number.

Claim 13. (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

disassociating said member from said group; and

associating said member with a new group.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): A method for tracking in real-time the location of a group of members within a defined environment and for providing information to any member of the group about the location of any other members of the group, comprising:

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providing each member with a long range identification tag, each tag having a unique serial number;

associating each member with the group and with the unique serial number;

communicating continuously with all of the tags using a group of monitoring sites distributed throughout the defined environment as said members move within said defined environment, said communicating providing information indicative of said unique serial number;

determining continuously location information of each member from said communicating as said members move within the defined environment;

receiving location request information via one of a plurality of identification stations distributed throughout the defined environment being activated by a requesting member;

providing said location information substantially simultaneously for a plurality of group members having tags, of each member to said requesting members via one of the identification stations distributed throughout the defined environment;

wherein said providing said location information comprises displaying a map of at least a portion of said defined environment on a monitor of the activated identification station and an indication of the location of a plurality of the each group members on said map; and

wherein said indication comprises a plurality of different person icons representing each of the members of the group having tags, displaying all a plurality of the person icons on the map, and positioning all of the person icons on the map according to the relative location of all the members of the group within the defined environment.

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Claim 15. (Currently amended): A method for tracking in real-time the location of a group of members within a defined environment, comprising:

providing each member with a[[n]] long range identification tag, each tag having a unique serial number;

communicating continuously with all of the tags using a plurality of monitoring sites as said members move within said defined environment, said communicating providing information indicative of the unique serial numbers of the tags;

determining continuously location information of each member from said communicating as said members move within said defined environment area;

receiving location request information from one of a plurality of identification stations distributed throughout the defined environment being activated for requesting the location of members of the group;

providing said location information substantially simultaneously for a plurality of the group members having tags, of each member to said requesting members via one of the identification stations distributed throughout the defined environment;

displaying an image of at least a portion of a map on a monitor at the activated identification station and an indication of the location of a plurality of the group members on the map; and

displaying a plurality of different person icons representing ~~each of the~~ members of the group on the map; and positioning ~~all of the~~ person icons on the map according to the relative locations of ~~all of the~~ members of the group within the defined environment.

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Claim 16. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, wherein said displaying a plurality of different person icons includes displaying digital pictures of the members of the group.

Claim 17. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including receiving a signal from an identification station indicating the need to obtain assistance in meeting one member of the group.

Claim 18. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including receiving a signal from an identification station to merge sub-groups into a group, or two groups into a super group.

Claim 19. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including designating a member of a group as a group master, where the group master is the only person permitted to make changes in a group.

Claim 20. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including receiving a signal from an identification station to add or to delete members to or from a group.

Claim 21. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including receiving a signal from an identification station to discontinue a group.

Claim 22. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including receiving a signal indicating that a member is leaving the defined environment and will be returning at a later time.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including receiving a signal indicating that a member is replacing a tag.

Claim 24. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including receiving a signal from an identification station indicating that a member is being transferred from one group to another.

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Claim 25. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including displaying a message for group members or others on at least some of the information stations.

Claim 26. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further including providing personnel at the defined environment with Identification tags, communicating continuously with the personnel tags, and determining continuously location information of the personnel from the last-mentioned communicating as the personnel move within the defined environment.

Claim 27. (Currently amended): A system for tracking in real-time the location of a group of members within a defined environment, comprising:

long range identification tags each having a unique serial number for members of a group;

a plurality of monitoring sites distributed throughout the defined environment for communicating continuously with all of the tags as the members move within the defined environment, said communicating providing information indicative of the unique serial numbers of the tags;

a computer for determining continuously location information of each member from said communicating as said members move within said defined area;

a plurality of identification stations distributed throughout the defined environment being activated for requesting the location of members of the group;

said identification stations including monitors for displaying the image of a map of at least a portion of the defined environment;

said monitors for displaying substantially simultaneously a plurality of different person icons representing ~~each of the members~~ a plurality of the group members on the map; and

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said monitors for positioning ~~all of~~ said person icons on the map according to the relative locations ~~of all~~ of the members of the group within the defined environment.

Claim 28. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, wherein said displaying a plurality of different person icons includes displaying digital pictures of the members of the group.

Claim 29. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including receiving a signal from an identification station indicating the need to obtain assistance in meeting one member of the group.

Claim 30. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including receiving a signal from an identification station to merge sub-groups into a group, or two groups into a super group.

Claim 31. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including designating a member of a group as a group master, where the group master is the only person permitted to make changes in a group.

Claim 32. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including receiving a signal from an identification station to add or to delete members to or from a group.

Claim 33. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including receiving a signal from an identification station to discontinue a group.

Claim 34. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including receiving a signal indicating that a member is leaving the defined environment and will be returning at a later time.

Claim 35. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including receiving a signal indicating that a member is replacing a tag.

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Claim 36. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including receiving a signal from an identification station indicating that a member is being transferred from one group to another.

Claim 37. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including displaying a message for group members or others on at least some of the information stations.

Claim 38. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 27, further including providing personnel at the defined environment with identification tags, communicating continuously with the personnel tags, and determining continuously location information of the personnel from the last-mentioned communicating as the personnel move within the defined environment.

Claim 39. (New): A method for determining in real-time the location of a group of members within a defined environment, comprising:

providing each member with a long range identification tag, each tag having a unique serial number;

communicating with all of the tags using a plurality of monitoring sites as said members move within said defined environment, said communicating providing information indicative of the unique serial numbers of the tags;

determining location information of each member from said communicating as said members move within said defined environment;

receiving location request information from one of a plurality of identification stations distributed throughout the defined environment being activated for requesting the location of members of the group;

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providing said location information of group members to said requesting member via one of the identification stations distributed throughout the defined environment;

displaying an image of a map of at least a portion of the defined environment on a monitor at the activated identification station and an indication of the location of a plurality of the group members on the map substantially simultaneously; and

displaying a plurality of different person icons representing group members on the map substantially simultaneously and positioning the person icons on the map according to the relative locations of the group members within the defined environment.

Claim 40. (New): A method for determining in real-time the location of a group of members within a defined environment, comprising:

providing each group member with a long range identification tag, and each tag having a unique serial number;

communicating with all of the tags using a plurality of monitoring sites as said members move within said defined environment;

displaying on a monitor an image of a map of at least a portion of the defined area and an indication of a plurality of the group members on the map; and

displaying images on the map substantially simultaneously of a plurality of different person icons representing different group members and positioning the person icons on the map according to the relative locations of the group members within the defined environment.